

I Claim:

1. A novelty sports apparatus comprising
a first section,
a second section, and
5 an insert adapted to couple the first section
and the second section to form a composite shaft, the
insert having an annular score line comprising a line of
weakness,
the insert comprising a polymer material that
10 resiliently bends along an arc of curvature that includes
the score line within a range of bend angles in response
to a bending force applied to opposing sides of the score
line,
the polymer having an elastic memory to allow
15 return of the shaft to a generally straightened and
original condition once the bending force is removed if a
maximum bend angle is not exceeded, and
the insert permanently breaking if the bending
force exceeds the maximum bend angle.
- 20 2. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the polymer is PVC.
3. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the insert includes at least one male
fitting and at least one of the first and second sections
25 includes a complementary female fitting to couple the
insert to the at least one of the first and second
sections.
4. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the insert includes at least one
30 female fitting and at least one of the first and second
sections includes a complementary male fitting to couple
the insert to the at least one of the first and second
sections.
5. An apparatus as in claim 1
35 wherein the maximum bend angle is about 45°.

6. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the apparatus is a golf club.
7. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the apparatus is a pool cue.
- 5 8. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the apparatus is a baseball bat.
9. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the apparatus is a racquet.
- 10 10. An apparatus as in claim 9
wherein the racquet is a tennis racquet.
11. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the racquet is a badminton racquet.
12. An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the racquet is a racquetball racquet.
- 15 13. A method of using disposable novelty
sports apparatus in a dramatic and humorous way to
relieve frustration and stress comprising the steps of
providing novelty sports apparatus having a
shaft, the shaft comprising a first section, a second
20 section, and insert coupling the first and second
sections together, the insert comprising resilient
polymer material and an annular score line defining a
line of weakness,
grasping the shaft on one side of the score
25 line with one hand,
holding the shaft on an opposite side of the
score line with a second hand,
bending the shaft along an arc of curvature
that includes the score line to a range of bend angles,
30 not to exceed a predetermined maximum bend angle, and
returning the shaft to a normal position.
14. A method of breaking novelty sports
apparatus in a dramatic and humorous way to relieve
frustration and stress comprising the steps of
35 providing novelty sports apparatus having a

shaft, the shaft comprising a first section, a second section, and a disposable insert coupling the first and second sections together, the insert comprising resilient polymer material and an annular score line defining a
5 line of weakness,

grasping the shaft on one side of the score line with one hand,

holding the shaft on an opposite side of the score line with a second hand,

10 flexing the shaft beyond a predetermined maximum bend angle to break the shaft at the score line.

15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of

replacing the insert with a new insert, and
15 coupling the new insert to the first and second sections.